



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASMFC Approves Draft Lobster Addendum III for Public Input *State Meetings to be Held in November*

Rockport, Maine – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission yesterday approved Draft Addendum III to Amendment 3 to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for public review and comment. The Addendum incorporates the alternative management programs for Lobster Conservation Management Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Outer Cape Cod as developed by the respective Lobster Conservation Management Teams (LCMTs). Many of the states from Maine through New Jersey will be holding public meetings throughout November to gather public comment of the Addendum.

“The LCMTs have worked long and hard to develop area management programs to meet the egg rebuilding schedule and targets established by Addendum II to the plan,” stated Gordon Colvin, Chair of the ASMFC Lobster Board and Administrative Commissioner from New York. “And, in some cases this has been no easy task. They are the reason why Atlantic coastal lobster management works and the Board commends them for their willingness to do what is necessary to conserve this valuable resource.”

Addendum III was developed in response to an Addendum II requirement whereby each LCMT was asked to review the revised egg rebuilding schedule, the previous LCMT recommendation, and the area management program, if any and present to the Board alternative measures that will achieve the stock rebuilding targets.

Specifically, the Draft Addendum proposes new management measures applicable to commercial fishing in Lobster Management Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and Outer Cape Cod, which provide for the following:

Area 1 (Gulf of Maine) – Escape vent size increase to 2-inch in 2007 (if necessary), zero tolerance definition of v-notching, and mandatory v-notching requirements;

Area 3 (Offshore) – Mandatory v-notching requirements (above the 42° 30 minute latitude in Gulf of Maine), five-mile overlap boundary between Areas 3 and 5, and a choose and use provision;

Area 4 (Southern New England) – Minimum gauge size increases, maximum gauge size (if necessary);

Area 5 (Mid-Atlantic) – Minimum gauge size increases, maximum gauge size (if necessary), vessel upgrade limit;

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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Area 6 (New York & Connecticut State Waters) – Minimum gauge size increases (if necessary), escape vent size increase (if necessary); and

Outer Cape Cod – Minimum gauge size increases, trap reduction schedule, annual trap transfer period and passive reductions, and additional contingency measures.

Public meetings on this document will be held throughout November 2001. The Draft Addendum III should be available for review in early November. Copies can be obtained via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org or by contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400 or <vjones@asmfc.org>. For more information, please contact Heather Stirratt, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 ext. 301 or <hstirratt@asmfc.org>.

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